

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-7, 9-10, 15 and 17-20 are pending in this application.

Objection to the Title:

The title was objected to as allegedly not being descriptive. A new title which is descriptive (although not limiting) has been provided. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

Objection to the Specification:

The specification was objected to as allegedly failing to provide a proper antecedent basis for the term “computer program product” used in claims 15 and 20. Applicant traverses this rejection. By this Amendment, claims 15 and 20 have been amended to recite a “~~computer program product~~non-transitory storage medium.” This claimed storage medium is supported by, for example, page 11, lines 1-4 of the original specification. Applicant therefore requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Objections to the Claims:

Claims 10 and 19 were rejected to because of an informality. Namely, the Office Action alleged “the term ‘a communications’ should be a communication.” Applicant disagrees with this allegation. First, claim 19 does not recite “a communications”. Second, the full expression in claim 10 is “A communications network”. This expression is grammatically correct (e.g., the term “communications” is an adjective properly describing the term “network”) and is explicitly consistent with identical wording of the specification (see, e.g., pg. 3, lines 14-15). Applicant therefore requests that the objection to claims 10 and 19 be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 1, 9, 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as allegedly being indefinite. By this Amendment, Applicant submits that all of the claim limitations identified in this rejection now have a sufficient antecedent basis. Applicant therefore requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101:

Claims 15 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The rejection focused around the interpretation of the claimed term “computer program product.” As noted above, this claim terminology has been deleted. Claims 15 and 20 (via dependency to claim 15) now require “A non-transitory storage medium readable by a computer....” This limitation is supported by, for example, page 11, lines 1-4 of the original specification. The claimed storage medium required by claims 15 and 20 is directed to a manufacture, one of the specifically enumerated classes of statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. §101. Applicant therefore requests that the rejection of claims 15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §101 be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

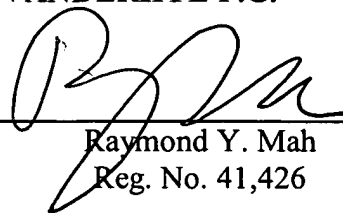
Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

TITMUSS et al
Appl. No. 09/868,221
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



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